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thickening the outer periphery axially and without buckling by said pressing;
protruding the outer periphery to either side of the non-processed portion of the metal sheet material; and
forming a peripheral wall protruding to either side of the non-processed portion.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to better describe the non-processed portion of the metal plate as including, as shown, portions 11, 12 and 14. The total non-processed portion is now being identified by the letter "I". The previously identified portion 14 has now been identified as the "stepped portion 14." Corresponding corrections to Figs. 1A and 6-12 are being submitted herewith.

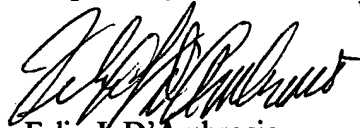
The rejection of claims 1-8 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Deggau et al in view of Kanemitsu et al is noted and respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been further amended to include the subject matter of claim 7. Claim 1 now recites that the non-processed portion (I) includes "a stepped portion." This limitation was previously included in claim 7. It has been added to claim 1 as further amended, to lend force to the argument previously made, namely, that the stepped portion protects the hole 13 in the portion 11 from distortion during fabrication. If the part being fabricated is perfect in all respects but not in the configuration of the hole 13, then the part fabricated is useless. To insure that this does not happen, the stepped portion 14 has been added.

This feature is not seen, specifically or suggestively, in the applied references or any of the other references of record. Nor has the examiner suggested that any of the references of record teach or suggest this feature.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 1-6 and 8 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', written in a cursive style.

Felix J. D'Ambrosio

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